



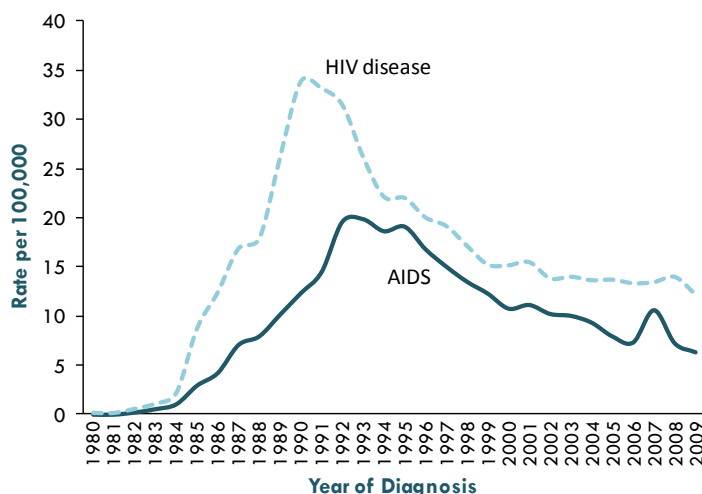
# Scope of HIV Disease in Virginia

Updated Nov 2011

**With** eight million residents, Virginia represents 2.6% of the total population of the United States. In 2009, the state comprised 2.2% of all HIV disease diagnoses in the country and ranked 10th among the 40 states with established confidential name-based reporting (CDC, 2011). Since 1999, the number of HIV disease diagnoses in Virginia has remained relatively stable, between 958 and 1,111 cases newly diagnosed each year.

On average, there were 1,036 persons diagnosed with HIV disease each year in Virginia for the past 10 years, at a rate of nearly 14 new cases per 100,000 population. In 2009, there were 958 reports of HIV disease diagnosis; though data for 2009 indicated a decrease in the number of diagnoses, caution must be exercised when evaluating this trend, as year-to-year fluctuations are expected based on data in recent years. In 2009, there were 498 cases of AIDS diagnosed in Virginia, the lowest since the decline began in the early 1990's.

**HIV Disease & AIDS Diagnosis Rates in Virginia, 1980-2009**



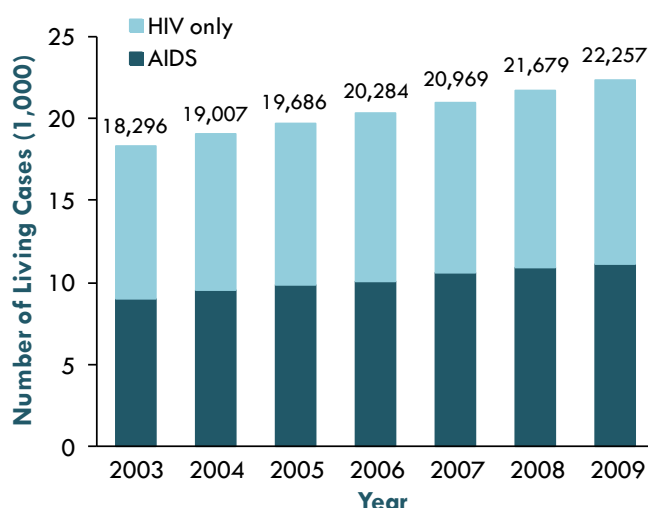
- **1 in 237** men in Virginia are known to be living with HIV disease.
- **1 in 679** women in Virginia are known to be living with HIV disease.

## HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

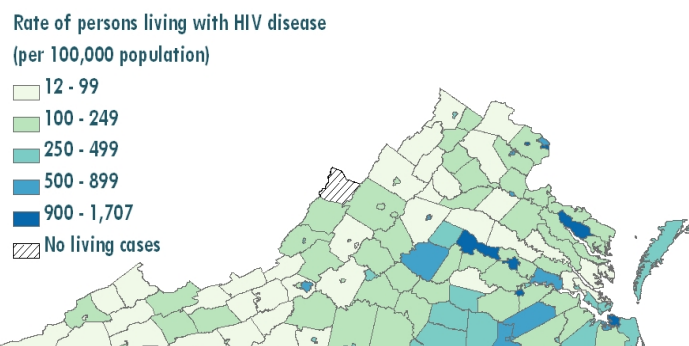
Advances in medical therapies have resulted in people living longer with HIV disease. As of December 31, 2009, there were 22,257 people known to be living with HIV disease (PLWHA) in Virginia, at a disease rate of 282 per 100,000 population. Approximately half of this population has progressed to the AIDS stage of the disease.

One in 354 Virginia residents were known to be living with HIV disease at the end of 2009. The majority of PLWHAs were male (73%), Black (60%), men who have sex with men (MSM) or MSM with a history of injection drug use (MSM-IDU) (55%), and between the ages of 40 and 54 as of 2009 (52%).

**People Living with HIV Disease in Virginia, 2003-2009**



**Prevalence of HIV Disease in Virginia by Locality, 2009**



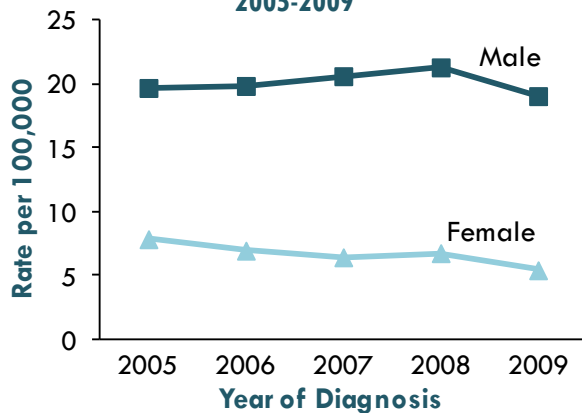
## HIV DISEASE DIAGNOSES

From 2005 to 2009, 5,124 cases of HIV disease were diagnosed in Virginia, between 958 and 1,083 cases per year.

### By Gender

Men accounted for 74% of the new diagnoses during the five year period. The average rate of HIV disease diagnoses was 20 per 100,000 among men and 6.7 per 100,000 among women.

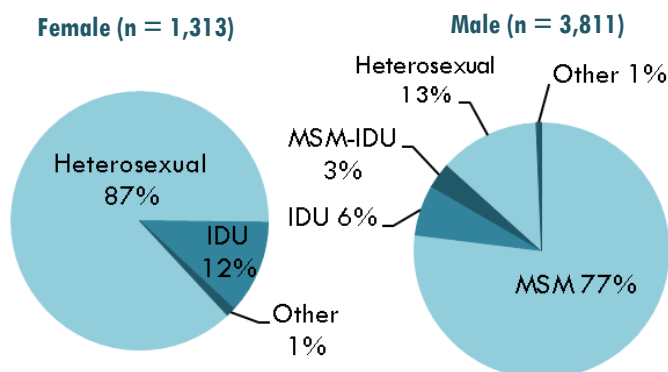
**Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Gender in Virginia, 2005-2009**



### By Transmission Category\*

The largest percentage (77%) of male diagnoses between 2005 and 2009 were among men who have sex with men (MSM). Among females, 87% of the new HIV disease diagnoses were attributed to heterosexual contact. In the same period, there were 22 diagnosed cases of perinatal (mother-to-child) HIV transmission in Virginia; six of these children were born outside of the United States and relocated to Virginia.

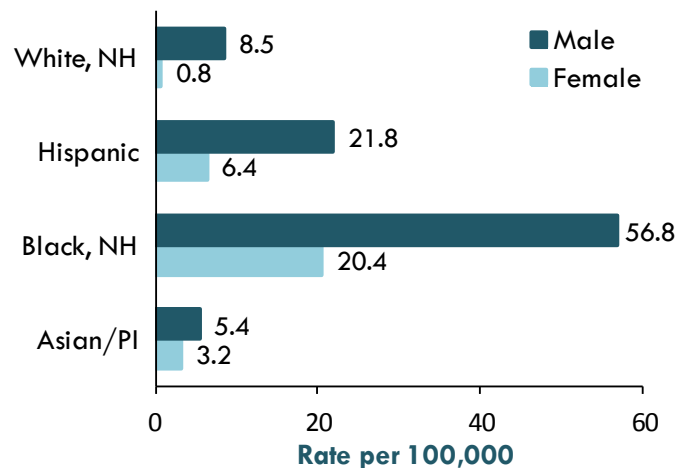
**HIV Disease by Transmission Category in Virginia, 2005-2009\***



### By Race/Ethnicity

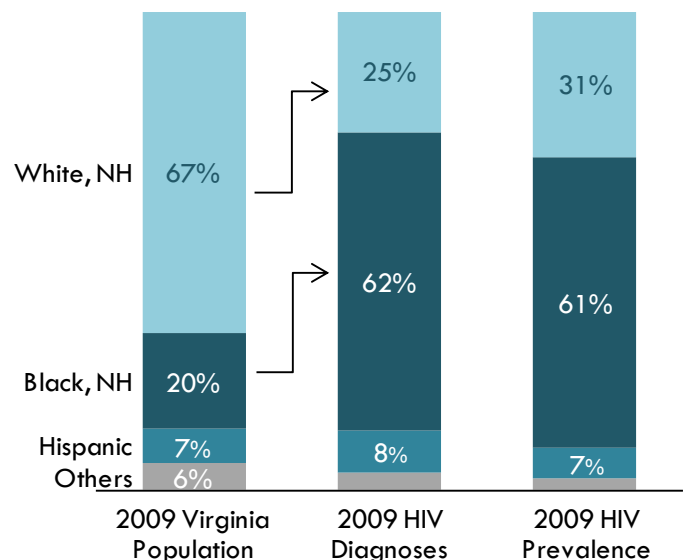
While comprising only 20% of Virginia's total population, non-Hispanic Blacks represented nearly 2 out of 3 recent HIV disease diagnoses. In 2009, Black men and women were, respectively, seven and 26 times more likely to be diagnosed than non-Hispanic White men and women. Hispanics accounted for 9% of the total diagnosed cases in 2009 and were 3 times more likely to be diagnosed than their White counterparts.

**Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender in Virginia, 2009^**



The burden of HIV disease continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, particularly racial and ethnic minorities.

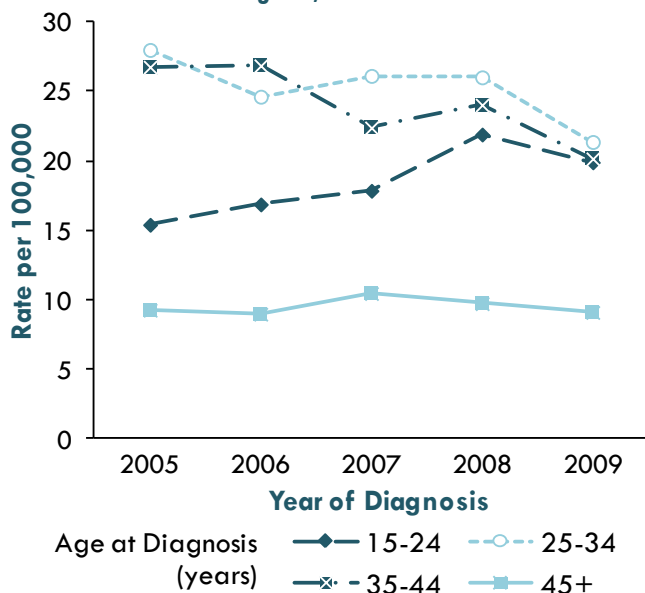
**Impact of Racial Health Disparities on HIV Disease Diagnoses in Virginia, 2009**



## By Age at Diagnosis

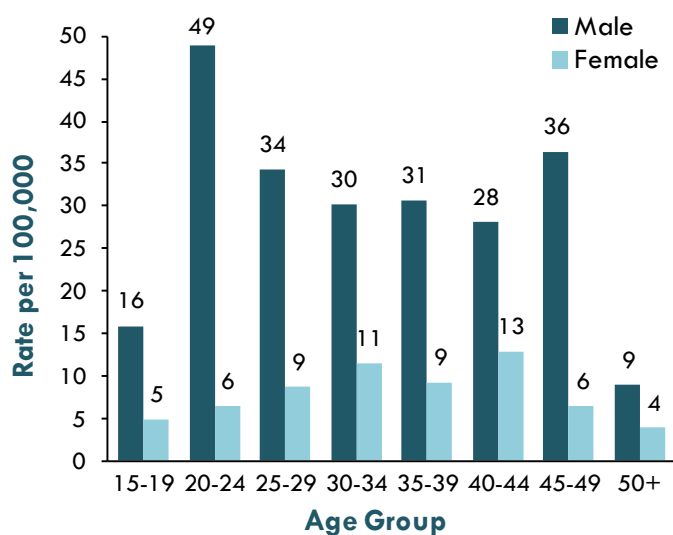
The rate of new HIV disease diagnoses has increased within the young adult population in recent years. Specifically, the rate among those who were 25-34 at the time of diagnosis surpassed that of those aged 35-44.

**Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Age at Diagnosis in Virginia, 2005-2009†**



The greatest number of new HIV disease diagnoses in 2009 occurred among men aged 20-24 at the time of diagnosis (n=147). Males in this group were 8 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV disease than their female counterparts.

**Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses by Gender and Age at Diagnosis in Virginia, 2009**



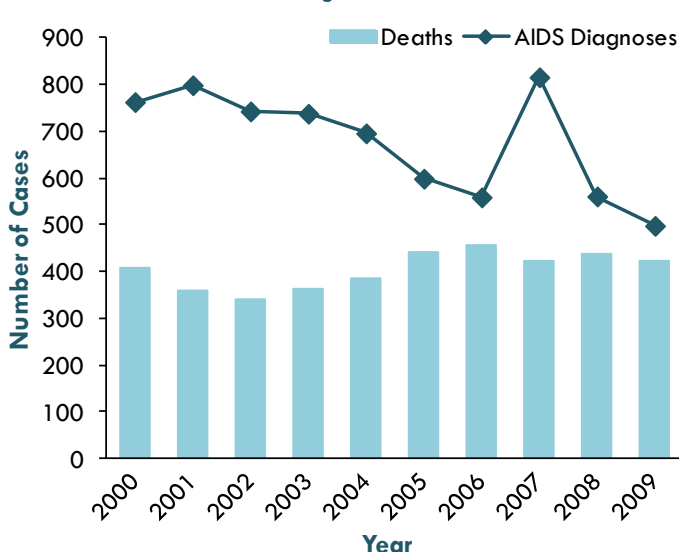
**For every 5 Virginians diagnosed with HIV disease, approximately:**

- 4** are men
- 3** are Black
- 3** live in the Eastern or Central region
- 3** are MSM or MSM - IDU
- 2** are aged 20-34 at diagnosis

## AIDS DIAGNOSES & DEATHS

The first cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Virginia were reported in 1982; the epidemic peaked in the early 1990's with more than 1,200 new AIDS diagnoses per year. Since then, the number of new AIDS diagnoses each year has declined until 2006 with a rate of 7.3 per 100,000 population. In 2007 the rate of new AIDS diagnoses increased to 10.6 per 100,000, only to subsequently decline to levels comparable to 2006 in later years. As of December 2009, 19,462 persons had been diagnosed with AIDS in Virginia. In addition, 11,829 persons known to have HIV disease and who had Virginia as their last known place of residence have died. While HIV and AIDS were contributing factors in some of these deaths, others were the result of unrelated causes, including motor vehicle crashes and other illnesses or injuries.

**AIDS Diagnoses and Deaths Among Persons with HIV Disease in Virginia, 1998-2009**



## NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

To commemorate 30 years since the first case of AIDS was reported in the United States, the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) issued the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States in July 2010, with three primary goals:

- 1). Reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV;
- 2). Increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- 3). Reducing HIV-related health disparities.

The Strategy was developed as a concise plan to identify priorities and strategic action steps tied to measurable outcomes.

The Vision for the National HIV/AIDS Strategy is:

*“The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstances, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.”*

In order to succeed, this plan will require the commitment of all parts of society, including various levels of government, and other stakeholders such as faith communities, philanthropic organizations, the scientific and medical communities, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

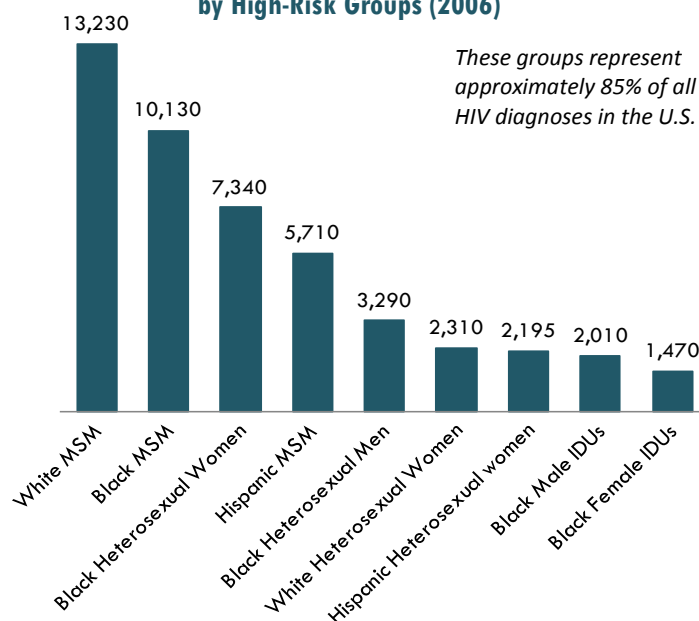
### National and Virginia Trends

The number of new HIV infections in the US is estimated to be around 56,000 annually. Although this has significantly decreased from earlier days of the epidemic due to activities such as HIV testing, behavior intervention, screening the blood supply, and advances in HIV therapies, challenges still remain. Too many people are unaware of their HIV infection; there is limited access to HIV prevention and care; and public attention toward HIV/AIDS-related issues has diminished in recent years.

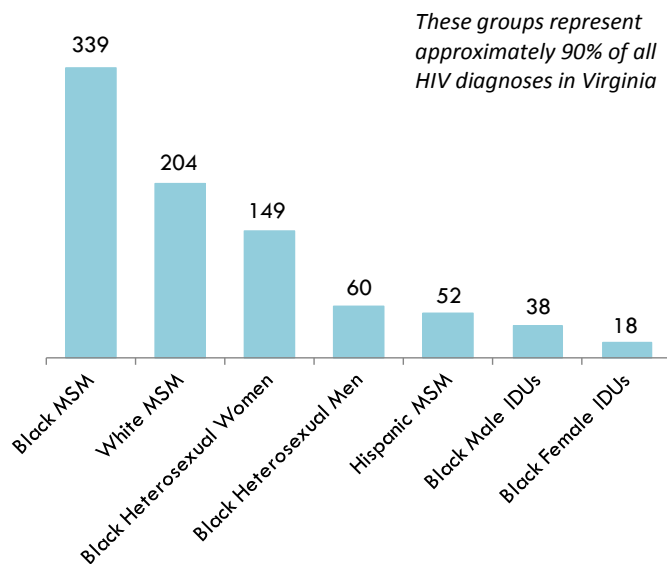
Steps to reduce HIV infections include intensifying HIV prevention efforts in communities with high prevalence, expanding targeted efforts using effective, evidence-based approaches, and increasing education efforts for all Americans.

The following figures compare the numbers and estimated rates of HIV disease diagnoses among high-risk populations in United States (from the National HIV/AIDS Strategy) and Virginia.

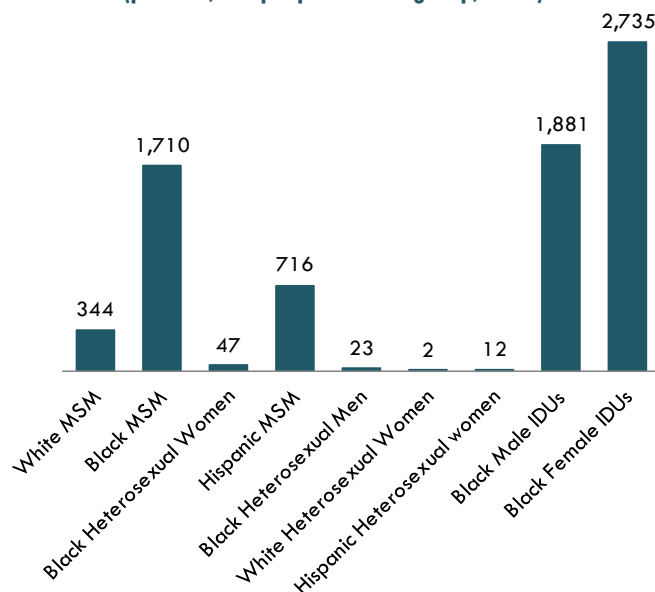
**Numbers of Annual HIV Disease Diagnoses in the U.S. by High-Risk Groups (2006)**



**Numbers of Annual HIV Disease Diagnoses in Virginia by High-Risk Groups (2009)\***



**Estimated Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses for High-Risk Groups in the U.S.**  
(per 100,000 people in each group, 2006)



Similar to the US as a whole, the populations at highest risk of HIV disease in Virginia are:

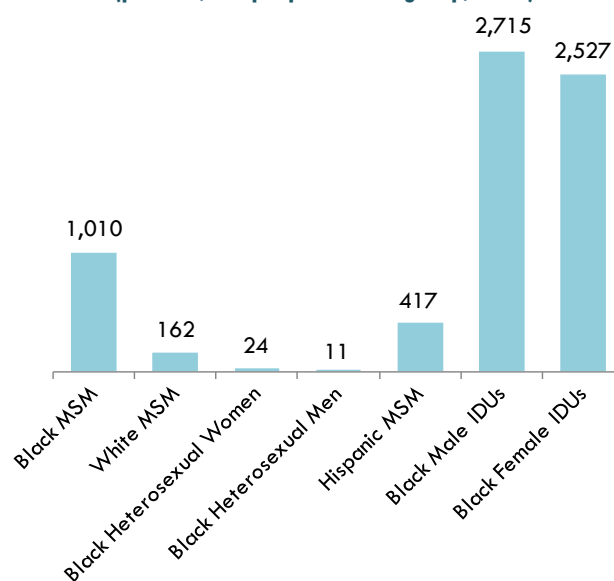
**Men who have sex with men (including gay and bisexual men):** According to recent estimations, MSM comprised approximately six percent of the male population in Virginia†, but they represented 77% of all HIV disease diagnoses among men in 2005-2009 (another 3% were MSM with a history of injection drug use).

**Black men and women:** While representing only 20% of the state population, Blacks represented 61% of all new HIV disease diagnoses and 60% of all those living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2009. Among Blacks, men who have sex with men are at the greatest risk for HIV, followed by heterosexual women and men.

**Hispanic/Latino men and women:** Between 2005 and 2009, the rate of HIV disease diagnoses among Hispanic men and women in Virginia were 3 and 8 times higher than that of White counterparts. Among Hispanics, 75% of diagnoses among men were MSM, and 93% of diagnoses among women were attributed to heterosexual contact.

**Injection Drug Users:** Although they account for a relatively small part of US and Virginia populations, they are disproportionately represented in the HIV

**Estimated Rates of HIV Disease Diagnoses for High-Risk Groups in Virginia\*†**  
(per 100,000 people in each group, 2009)



epidemic. People who use non-injections drugs are also at risk for HIV and should be targeted with prevention efforts.

## REFERENCES

CDC (2011). "Diagnoses of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2009." Accessed April 2011: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/reports/2009report/index.htm>

The White House ONAP (2010). "National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States." Accessed August 2011: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf>

\*Transmission category data are not actual cases; the percentages and numbers of cases presented are estimated using the CDC provided multiple imputation procedure for cases reported without an identified or reported risk.

^Asian/PI = Asian/Pacific Islander. Small case counts among this population may result in an unreliable rate estimate.

†Estimation of HIV rates are calculated as below:

●**MSM** is defined as "adult males ≥18 years with a lifetime history of any male-male sexual contact." Source: Lieb, S. *et al.* "Statewide estimation of racial/ethnic population of men who have sex with men in the US". *Pub Hlth Reports*, 2011; 60-72.

●**IDU** estimation is calculated among Virginians ≥18. Source: The NSDUH Report (2009). "Injection Drug Use and Related Risk Behaviors." Accessed April 2011: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/139/139IDU.htm>.

●**Heterosexual** is estimated to be 96% of Virginian population ≥18. Source: Smith, T.W. *American sexual behavior: trends, socio-demographic differences, and risk behavior*. National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago: March 2006.